



# COON VALLEY AMERICAN LEGION POST 116



AUGUST 2015

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 2



### Commanders Message:

Greetings! I hope this newsletter finds everyone well. I know how busy everyone gets during the summer months, with all the outdoor activity, farming, lawn care, golfing, biking, boating and in general just all of the great activities that living here in God's Country that we are blessed with. This is why I am extremely thankful for having as much support with our Legion activities that we have in Post 116. An organization is only successful when you have membership willing to donate their valuable time to that organization. For this, I am grateful.

This month we will be observing our Post Everlasting Ceremony to honor our recently departed veterans. Our schedule will be a little out of the ordinary, so make sure you check the schedule below for times. This month's meeting will be informal and anyone who has a 5-year increment milestone should be at the meeting so we can present membership year increment pins to you.

We have one new member to announce: Pvt Aaron Van Galder, USMC active duty has been signed up by his godfather, yours truly. Aaron is currently stationed at MCRD San Diego. Welcome Aaron and Congratulations! Aaron is also the younger brother of Post 116 Legionnaire Charlie Van Galder and the grandson of late Post 116 Legionnaire Paul Hess.

Annual membership renewals are moving along at a brisk pace, so a hearty thank you to everyone who attended to this matter right away! If you haven't renewed your membership, please take care of renewing soonest possible. Last year we were able to achieve 100% +1 to receive the Post Excellence Award from now-Past Department Commander Bob Shappell at State Convention. It was a great honor to receive that award on behalf of Post 116.

There were four Post 116 members present at State Convention: Roger Mathison, John Thurk, Charlie Nelson and myself. There was a lot of great information to come out of Convention and we can look forward to hearing all about it from one of the delegates.

We have several events coming up before the September meeting so be sure to consult the schedule and attend these events if you are able. I look forward to seeing everyone at the August meeting and at the events between the meetings.

**Gary M. Hess**

**Commander Post 116**

### DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>August 19th</b>	Post Everlasting Ceremony, 7:00pm with meal following with family and friends Lunch Committee: Rod & Deb Ofte
	Presentation of 5-year increment pins following meal.
<b>August 24th</b>	SAL Regular meeting at 8pm.
<b>September 2nd</b>	Auxiliary Meeting with potluck at 6 and the meeting at 6:30
<b>September 7th</b>	Legion Executive Meeting at 6:30pm - unless change for Labor Day!
<b>September 9th</b>	Vernon County Meeting - Hillsboro 8:00 pm
<b>September 11th</b>	Flag Disposal Ceremony, 6:30pm - Chaseburg American Legion
<b>September 13th</b>	Cashton Fall Festival Parade - 12:30pm start
<b>September 16th</b>	Regular Post Meeting, meal at 7:30pm, meeting at 8:00pm Lunch Committee: Roger Mathison
<b>September 16-20th</b>	Vernon County Fair - Post 116 works the booth on Sunday - 10am to ??
<b>October 3rd</b>	Chaseburg Cancer Walk

# AUGUST Newsletter

2015-2016

Last Bugle:

Howard Mathison

\* Not a Post 116 member



**BUCKET  
DRAWING**

**Daryl Brye  
Not Present**

**August  
Drawing will be:  
\$30.00**

**50/50  
DRAWING  
Rod Ofte  
\$53**

**Legion \$53**



## COON VALLEY AMERICAN LEGION POST 116

Commander: Gary M. Hess  
(608) 788-1768  
Adjutant: Charles E. Nelson  
(608) 452 - 3018

Post 116 Newsletter is published monthly as a service to our members. If you wish to submit an article for a future edition, please contact:  
Charles Nelson  
(608) 452 - 3018  
for more information.

### Mailing Address:

Coon Valley American Legion  
Post 116  
PO Box 314  
Coon Valley, WI 54623  
**Phone Contacts:**  
Legion: (608) 452-3179

### Membership Totals to Date

2016 Paid Membership - 120  
2016 Membership Goal - 197

On the web:

[www.coonvalleywialpost116.org](http://www.coonvalleywialpost116.org)

Webmaster - Don Salter: [dwsalter@gmail.com](mailto:dwsalter@gmail.com)

## MEMBERSHIP:

Please make your check payable to C.V. Legion Post 116 in the amount of **\$30.00** and send to: Coon Valley American Legion Post 116  
PO Box 314  
Coon Valley, WI 54623

### Adjutant Notes:

- ◇ The Post Everlasting Ceremony will be held at the August meeting.
- ◇ Sunday, November 8 will be the Veterans Day Chicken-Q at Coon Valley Post 116.
- ◇ National American Legion College is October 25-30, 2015 in Indianapolis, Indiana.
- ◇ The next Freedom Honor Flight will be October 17<sup>th</sup>.
- ◇ The 7th District Legion Riders would like to use the Legion Hall on October 10<sup>th</sup>.
- ◇ We will have family night at our December meeting along with Candy Pack. No meeting.



### Message from S.A.L. Commander:

Well I hope everyone has enjoyed the summer so far. It is going by especially fast. We will have a meeting on Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup> @ 8 pm at the Legion hall. Topics to discuss are: 1) Memberships 2) Halloween party 3) Other possible activities.

Cal Manske, SAL Commander



### Message from Auxiliary President:

A warm hello to all of you. Thanks to everyone who attended the August meeting. We had election of officers: President: Julie Nelson, Vice President and Membership Chairperson: Gloria Freitag, Secretary: Ellie Brye, Treasurer: Nancy Miller, Historian: Joyce Temp, Sergeant-at-Arms and Chaplain: Mary Elsen.

During elections, we brought out our larger American Legion Auxiliary flag and recognized a need for either dry-cleaning or replacement. We will be discussing this further in September.

We discussed information regarding Memorial Day and Chicken Q from earlier this year. Thank you to the Legion for your check to us from Chicken Q.

We plan to have our Badger Girl's State Delegate, Annika Olson, speak at our September meeting. Please come and show your support! She will be discussing her experience with us, and we will have an opportunity to ask her questions.

At our October meeting, we plan to begin a new annual tradition where we will honor anyone who is celebrating a "5 year" Anniversary with the Coon Valley American Legion Auxiliary. Every year, we will celebrate and honor those members who have reached one of those "5 year" milestones. This year, we will be celebrating the following individuals during a ceremony at our October meeting: Briana Mathison (5 years), Judy Mathison (15 years), Evelyn Williams (20 years), and Marie Strangstalien (50 years). We hope they will be able to attend. And the rest of you please come as well to show your support. This unit could not exist without each and every one of you. Thank you for your dedication!

Our next meeting is September 2, 2015. Pot luck starts at 6 and the meeting starts at 6:30. We hope to see you there!

Julie Nelson, Auxiliary President

**Vernon County Veterans Service Office (Jim Young and Tami Saleska)**

**Heroes with Hearing Loss** - Designed to raise awareness and initiate meaningful dialog about shared hearing loss experiences among veterans, their families and friends – the Heroes with Hearing Loss program is a platform of engagement, providing insightful solutions and successful lifestyle-focused results.

These phones are free of charge for veterans with hearing loss, hearing aid compatible. Must have internet and phone line. Applications are available at the office in Viroqua.

Please contact Jim Young or Tami Saleska with any VSO questions at 608-637-5323.

**July \$50 winners in the Westby/Coon Valley American Legion Fundraising Raffle**

1 – Dan & Kris Bergdahl	12 – Roger Starkey	22 – Leon Borck
2 – Tanner Schmitt	13 – Liz Hellwig	23 – Wayne Kruienza
3 – Richard Zube	14 – Tom Miller	24 – Rob Anderson
4 – Jessi Eulberg	15 – Rodney Johnson	25 – Michael Miller
5 – Tip Bagstad	16 – Austin Meurer	26 – Nancy Ihrke
6 – JoAnne Humfeld	17 – Sara Olson	27 – Karla Lasky
7 – Harlan Helseth	18 – Seth Barstad	28 – Norman Sidie
8 – Tim Iverson	19 – Charles Nelson	29 – Josie Gilbertson
9 – Ken Trott	20 – Jerry Stalsberg	30 – Cheryl Mossholder
10 – Ron Paulsrud	21 – Steven L. Meyer	31 – Teri Juan
11 – Cindy Janeiro		

**Installation of Officers**

The officers installed were: Commander - Gary Hess; 1st Vice Commander (Membership chairman) - Steve Nelson; 2nd Vice Commander (Children & Youth chairman) - Wally Cox; 3rd Vice Commander (Americanism chairman) - Wesley Guy; Chaplain - Rod Ofte; Historian - Frank Mathison; Webmaster - Don Salter; Sergeant-at-Arms - Dan Hofslie; Service Officer - Tami Saleska; and Finance Officer - Roger Mathison.

**From the National American Legion**

Nearly a decade has passed since The American Legion’s last national per-capita dues increase. During that span, the U.S. cost of living has climbed 13 percent. An economic downturn unseen since the Great Depression has trimmed interest income from American Legion investments by over 35 percent. And the pool of veterans eligible for American Legion membership has declined by about 20 percent.

With more than 3 million veterans of the global war on terrorism restarting civilian lives, or soon to do so, and looking to The American Legion for help, the National Executive Committee passed a resolution at the 2015 Spring Meetings in Indianapolis to recommend a \$5 per-capita annual increase in national membership dues. It amounts to about 1.4 cents a day.

**5-Year Increment Legion Members**

5 – Russell Lancaster	20 – Michael Callan	35 – David Hofslie
5 – Lee Rudie	20 – Ed Gorman	35 – Merlin Lenser
5 – Kenneth Rupp	20 – Gary Grethel	35 – Paul Nichols
5 – Ruth Rupp	20 – Ty Mathison	35 – James Schmidt
5 – Glen Stakston	20 – Robert VanNatta	35 – Mary Schmidt
10 – Anthony Manske	25 – Roger Carlson	40 – David Moilien
10 – Brian Manske	25 – Orlin Clark	40 – Jim Padesky
15 – Julius Dumale	25 – Art Hendrickson	40 – Lorenz Pinski
15 – Gary Hess	25 – Dane Hofslie	45 – Rodney Berg, Jr.
15 – Dennis Kammel	25 – Troy Hofslie	45 – Daniel Elsen
15 – Steven Mader	25 – Sig Molland	45 – Gary Gilbertson
15 – David Peterson	25 – Charles Nelson	50 – Francis Mathison
15 – Michael Schediviv	25 – Steven Nelson	50 – David Sorenson
15 – Amy Stafslie	30 – Arthur Olson	55 – Sylvester King
	35 – Gerald Dunnum	70 – Lester Gilbertson



**THE AMERICAN LEGION  
 COON VALLEY POST No. 116  
 PO BOX 314  
 COON VALLEY, WI 54623-0314**

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**2015 State Convention - Appleton, WI - July 15-19**

The 98th Annual State Convention was held in Appleton on July 15-19. Post 116 members that attended were Past Wisconsin State Commander Roger Mathison, Wisconsin State Vice Commander John Thurk, Legion Riders State Vice President/Post 116 Commander Gary Hess, and Vernon County Commander Charles Nelson. Post 116 member, John Thurk, completed his term in the high office of Wisconsin State Vice Commander. Please congratulate John on his productive year as Wisconsin State Vice Commander!

**Department Vice Commander**



**Vernon County American Legion**

Thanks to everyone who helped sell the 95 tickets for the Vernon County Raffle!

Names drawn at the August meeting in Westby were:

\$50 – Lee Nerison-----\$25 – Micky Austin-----\$25 - Kari Leis-----\$15 – Kenneth Bud-----\$10 – Buck DeCharm

**Coon Valley/Westby Legion Baseball**

Congratulations to the Coon Valley/Westby American Legion baseball, Senior and Junior teams, on another successful season. Thanks to State Baseball Commissioner Roger Mathison for all he does for the kids!

Congratulations to Ross Withington for being selected to play for the 2015 Legion All-Star South Team on August 9 at Miller Park. Other area players selected were Chris Curti from La Crosse Post 52, Asher Freybler from Onalaska, and Zach Trautsch from Viroqua.

**Flag Disposal Ceremony**

Our annual Flag Disposal ceremony that we participate in with the Chaseburg Legion will take place on September 11th. Let's have a great turnout. Be at the Chaseburg Legion Hall by 6pm.

**Vernon County Fair - September 16-20**

The Coon Valley American Legion will work at the Vernon County American Legion Booth at the Fair on Sunday, September 20 from about 10am to 6pm. It would be really nice if we could get a few members to work from 10am to 2pm and a second handful of members to work from 2pm to 6pm (or whenever things start closing up).